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FILE ON

Stem hemorrhaging of secrets with application of patriotism

Editor, News-Press: I noted with great interest the editorial "Secrets for Sale" in the November 27 News-Press.

Your comments on the astronomical number of our citizens apprehended for engaging in espionage on behalf of the Soviets, and more recently Israel, were enlightening to your readers.

However, your editorial on this very important subject omitted the most important question: What factors are present in our society today that evidently have contributed to making it relatively easy for certain people entrusted with secrets, critical to maintain our national security, to opt to engage in espionage activities on behalf of the KGB and other foreign intelligence services?

My surmise, based on 25 years in the international espionage arena on behalf of the CIA, is that we are still afflicted by the Fonda/Hayden syndrome that impacted on a broad range of our college-age population during the tragic Vietnam conflict era.

Stiff sentences for our citizens caught and convicted of selling secrets to foreign intelligence services will do very little to stem the espionage epidemic that is running rampant in the U.S.

A good start toward slowing down the hemorrhaging of our vital national defense secrets to the Soviets, and others, would be a nationwide effort on the part of the clergy, the media, government, educational institutions, and the movie industry to instill a more patriotic spirit in the souls of our citizens. It will be more difficult for the KGB to recruit in this country if we all take a renewed sense of pride in our nation.

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